

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/783,862

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Applicant(s)

ELLIS ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the After-Final Amendment filed on 01-June-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29 and 31, re-numbered as claims 1-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to the After-Final Amendment filed on 01-June-2007, claim 30 is canceled per Applicant's request. Claims 1-29 and 31 are presently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 12, 23, 28, 29, and 31 are presented in independent form.

Allowance

2. Claims 1-29 and 31 are allowed over the prior art made of record.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record, including Applicant's own admitted prior art (figures 1 and 4 of the instant Application) teach a visual indicator establishing a visual connection between the selected search category ("Web" in figure 1, and "Directory" in figure 4) and the produced search results, visually indicating to the user that the displayed search results were found in "Web" category (figure 1) and in "Directory" category (figure 4.) However, the visual indicator taught by the prior art made of record fails to visually connect the search categories with the user search criteria (region), as recited in the independent claims of the instant application, as detailed below:

The prior art made of record, do not disclose, teach, or suggest (in combination with all other features in the claim), the claimed limitation of, “a connection indicator establishing a visual connection between said search region and a selected one of said search category indicia so as to enable a user to make a cognitive connection indicating that the user’s search criteria was found in the particular search category indicated by said connection indicator”, as recited in independent claims 1 and 31.

The prior art made of record, do not disclose, teach, or suggest (in combination with all other features in the claim), the claimed limitation of, “visually associating a search region containing said search term with one of said indicia of search categories using a connection indicator”, as recited in independent claim 12.

The prior art made of record, do not disclose, teach, or suggest (in combination with all other features in the claim), the claimed limitation of, “a connection indicator establishing a visual connection between said search region and a selected one of said search category indicia that indicates the search category within which a search for said search criteria is performed”, and “said connection indicator comprising a pointer that points from a region proximate said search region to a region proximate said selected one search category indicia”, as recited in independent claims 23, 28, and 29.

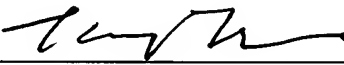
Art Unit: 2165

Conclusion

4. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at (571) 272-4146.

June 7, 2007



Tony Mahmoudi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2165
Tel. (571) 272-4078
Fax (571) 273-4078

tony.mahmoudi@uspto.gov